

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO COMICEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: ANDREWS-AMB IRVING TELECON JAN 4

1. FONMIN AGUSTSSON ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. HE ASKED FOR A DELAY IN THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS IN ORDER TO GIVE THE GOVT MORE TIME TO FORMULATE AN ICELANDIC NEGOTIATING POSITION. HE IS PROPOSING THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS IN JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY AT A TIME SUITABLE TO AMBASSADOR PORTER. THE SITE WILL BE WASHINGTON. HE HAS GIVEN ME HIS ORAL ASSURANCE, AND HE SAID, THAT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AS WELL, THAT NO ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST IDF WILL RESULT IF WE AGREE TO POSTPONEMENT. HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THIS ASSURANCE MEANT GOI WILL REFRAIN FROM SUBMITTING RENUNCIATION LEGISLATION OR REQUEST ALTHING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO RENOUNCE UNTIL AT LEAST AFTER THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID MAGNUS KJARTANSSON IS STILL THREATENING TO RESIGN FROM THE GOVT (WITHOUT BRINGING DOWN THE GOVT, HOWEVER) IF GOI DOES NOT SUBMIT SUCH LEGISLATION, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD PRIME MINISTER GAVE ME HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCE A COUPLE WEEKS AGO HE WOULD IGNORE KJARTANSSON'S THREAT AND HE WILL NOT GO BACK ON HIS WORD.

2. FONMIN SAID COMMUNISTS HAVE SUBMITTED INTERESTING RPROPOSAL TO  
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PRIME MINISTER WHICH WILL PERMIT "SOME MILITARY" TO REMAIN FOR THREE YEARS. IT WILL REQUIRE A WRITTEN COMMITMENT BY THE USG TO REDUCE THE MILITARY NUMBERS SUBSTANTIALY IN THE FIRST YEAR, "MAYBE BY ONE-HALF". HE SAID THE PROPOSAL HAS ADVANTAGE OF

ENABLING A NEW GOVT IN 1975 TO MAKE FINAL DECISION ON ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF IDF AND MAY EVEN REVERSE THE ACTION FORCED ON USG THE FIRST YEAR OF THE REDUCTION. HE ASKED MY INFORMAL VIEWS ON THIS. I REPLIED THE PROPOSAL WAS NAIVE, MISGUIDED, UNREASONABLE, ILLOGICAL AND A DISTORTION OF REALITY. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT EXPECT US TO AGREE TO THE PROPOSAL AND WE WOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A COUNTERPROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD THEN MAKE A MARCH MEETING NECESSARY. I ASKED IF THE PROPOSAL HE WAS FORMULATING HAD APPROVAL OF EVERYONE IN HIS PARTY AND IN THE OLL. HE ADMITTED "NOT QUITE BUT THERE ARE WAYS TO BRING THEIR APPROVAL ABOUT".

3. FONMIN SAID I HAD GOTTEN PRIME MINISTER CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF SOVIET AN-22S LANDING IN KEFLAVIK IN CONNECTION WITH BREZHNEV VISIT TO CUBA (APPARENTLY WHEN I TOLD HIM SOMEDAY IF THE BASE WERE DEFENSELESS IT IS CONCEIVABLE SIMILAR PLANES COULD LAND AND MIGHT NOT LEAVE). PRIME MINISTER IS ALSO CONCERNED AS TO WHY ONE OF THE AN-22S STAYED IN KEFLAVIK FOR FIVE OR SIX DAYS LAST WEEK AND WAS WONDERING WHETHER IN FACT THE AIRCRAFT WAS DISABLED AS THE SOVIETS CLAIMED. HE SAID THIS IS A FACTOR NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THE STATIONING OF MORE MILITARY THAN WAS BEING CONTEMPLATED. HE SAID HE IS REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM THE CANADIAN GOVT AS TO THE CARGO BEING CARRIED (THE PLANES ARE ALSO REFUELING IN GANDER). I ASKED HIM WHY AS AN INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGN NATION ICELAND COULD NOT ASK THAT QUESTION HERE IN ICELAND. HE SAID HE COULD NOT GET PERMISSION TO DO THAT (PRESUMABLY BY THE CABINET).

4. REGARDING TABLE 111, I HAD HEARD EARLIER IN THE DAY THAT VIGOROUS ARGUMENTS WERE GOING ON WITHIN THE OLL AND PP AS TO WHETHER THE DEFENSE FUNCTION OR THE SURVEILLANCE FUNCTION OF THE IDF WAS MORE IMPORTANT. I THEREFORE DECIDED IT WOULD NOT YET BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO SUBMIT EITHER VERSION. PERHAPS WE NEED ANOTHER VERSION. MY STATED REASON FOR STALLING WAS THAT THE TABLE WAS DIFFICULT TO PREPARE IN A FORM WHICH COULD NOT BE "INNOCENTLY MISUSED". I FIGURE I PROBABLY BOUGHT A FEW DAYS TIME AT THE LONGEST AND WILL TRY TO LEARN MORE THIS WEEK-END AS  
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TO WHAT IS GOING ON.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: AS PER TELECON, AMBASSADOR PORTER'S REACTION TO A POSTPONEMENT OF NEXT NEGOTIATING ROUND AND RANGE OF ACCEPTABLE DATES. SO AS NOT TO CONFLICT WITH BJORN JONSSON VISIT TO USA TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR TWO-WEEK PERIOD STARTING JANUARY 19, I WOULD SUGGEST SESSION IN WASHINGTON NOT COMMENCE BEFORE FEB 4 OR 5. IF MAGNUS KJARTANSSON LEARNED THAT JONSSON, AN OLL MINISTER, WAS IN THE US SAME TIME AS FONMIN (A PP MINISTER), HE MIGHT DEMAND TO BE ON THE NEGOTIATING TEAM.  
IRVING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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